

Ohio City Incorporated Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2017

Attendance

Board Members – Malone, Smith, Knittel, Qin, Frondorf, Schmitt, Doyle, Scheve, Crockett, Gill, Budin, Trares, Wimbiscus, Nosse (arrived after start of meeting)

Staff – Tom McNair, Ben Trimble, Carrie Miller

Host Joel Wimbiscus gave a brief presentation about LAND Studio and the great work that it is doing through the Greater Cleveland area.

Meeting began at 6:07 PM

Minutes Presented for Approval

Minutes for the August 2, 2017, Board meeting were presented to the Board for approval. Kathleen Knittel abstained as she was not present at the August 2, 2017, Board meeting. Minutes approved with no other abstentions.

Committee Reports – presented by Committee Chairs

Finance Committee – Kathleen Knittel (filling in for Maria Nosse)

The year-end financials for 2523 Market Corp reflect a net operating income of \$32,031. The audit has begun and should be completed by the December Board meeting. The Committee is watching the financials of Ohio City Elderly Building and they have been asked to have the building appraised at their cost.

An update was provided regarding the Family Dollar purchase and OCI is waiting to hear back from the City regarding OCI's request that the \$500,000 note be split and then forgiven after 15 years.

Governance Committee – Alex Frondorf

No meeting was held but there are several updates. Board Member Mancuso has asked for a leave of absence from the Board for the rest of the year so if any other Board member can pitch in and assist the Governance Committee, please let Alex know.

The Engagement Committee Charter was disseminated and approved unanimously by the Board. Board Member Helen Qin has spoken with a few potential Committee members but has largely held off until final approval for the Committee. A few names of potential members have been suggested and the first meeting will be brainstorming ideas, including how to finally make the Ohio City welcome packet a reality.

Real Estate & Land Use – Joel Wimbiscus

An update was provided on the property at 1800 Fulton. A contractor has been identified and staff is working with the owner and attorneys have prepared a preliminary judicial report. Tom McNair noted that Ben Trimble has done great work on this project, including navigating it through the nuisance abatement process.

An update was provided on Irishtown bend. Feedback regarding this project has been overwhelmingly positive partners have been working pro-actively to develop solutions to issues regarding homelessness. Board Chairman Schmitt summarized the most recent partner meeting and it went very well with everyone seeming to be on the same page. The plan is almost complete and updates will be provided in the future.

Safety – Helen Smith

A meeting with business owners was recently held at market garden Brewery and went very well. Cleveland Police reported at the meeting that twenty-six (26) arrests have been made and many of these individuals are responsible for the numerous crimes that occurred in Ohio City during the spring and summer months. Board Member Budin reported that \$900 was raised through the dunk tank at the Ohio City Street Festival. It was also reported that Prince Seyou, a juvenile who is responsible for multiple home break-ins and other crimes in Ohio City over the past several years, is in custody and is in the process of being bound over to adult court.

Advancement

No meeting was held but there is an upcoming meeting. The Committee is waiting for a final draft of the corporate sponsorship booklet.

Executive Director Report – Tom McNair

There was a second interview with the community engagement candidate and staff hopes to make a hire very soon. OCI is also exploring a partnership with U.S. Lacrosse. Tom Gill, the President of Urban Community School, made the introduction. The partnership would involve a \$65,000 grant to Near West Recreation to add a person who would focus on a lacrosse program but still spend half of his or her time working with the other sports. Staff is also looking for a person to work on housing issues and Ben Trimble is finishing up a plan for this position.

OCI entered into an agreement with Strategy Design Partners (SDP) to work with OCI and Tremont Near West Development Corp. SDP will interview the staffs of both organizations and make recommendations on how the two organizations can better help one another.

Hattie Kotz did an incredible job with the Ohio City Street Festival and deserves a round of applause. The event came in \$1,200.00 under budget and is getting closer to making a profit. It was noted that businesses on West 25th Street and the surrounding areas must be making a lot of money off of the Festival and Tom stated that he has been talking with businesses about contributing more to the Festival.

The Cleveland Museum of Art has agreed not to cancel Ohio City Stages, but it may step away after a few years. In the meantime, Councilman McCormack will assist financially with at least two of the events going forward.

OCI applied for the NOACA Commuter Choice Awards and defeated University Hospital and Cuyahoga County for the win. This was an unexpected, but well deserved, win for OCI.

At the end of the remarks by the Executive Director, Resolution 2017-1004 was introduced to sponsor Project Lightning's request for up to \$40,000 NDP funds from the City of Cleveland and in support of a potential development project on the west bank of the Flats spearheaded by Thunderbird, LLC. After introduction, the Resolution passed unanimously.

Board Chairman Schmitt stated that he would like this year's December Board meeting to be a holiday party where Board members can bring their spouses or significant others. More details to follow.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session.

Adjournment

The Board came out of Executive Session and adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.